## DAVE & STEPHANIE REED 2219 ALOHA AVENUE MEDFORD, OREGON 97504

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June 20, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305) Food and Drug Administration 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061 Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket #98N-1038: Irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food

I object to the possibility that you might remove the current labeling requirements for irradiated foods. I demand to know what I am eating and what I am feeding my children and grandchildren. I want to maintain my ability to identify what is in the food I purchase; so please do not restrict our freedom of informed choice.

I insist upon prominent labels that are in plain language, identifying food as "irradiated". Any alternative terms such as "cold pasteurization" and "electronic pasteurization" are misleading and should not be used. The absence of a clear statement would be misleading because irradiation destroys vitamins and causes changes in sensory and spoilage qualities that are not obvious or expected by the consumer.

I expect honesty and full disclosure of what I am purchasing. Already it is very hard to determine just what I am getting, as our food supply has been so adulterated with chemicals and genetically engineered foods. I insist that you provide consumers clear information about our food so we have a chance to make informed choices. Not requiring full disclosure stating that food has been irradiated would be an act of deception and will contribute to erosion of our trust in you.

Sincerely,

Stephanie R. Reed

cc: Senator Gordon Smith Senator Ron Wyden

Representative Greg Walden

tephanie R. Reed

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